

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the FIRST full paragraph of specification page 1 with the following replacement paragraph:

— This application is related to United States Patent Application Serial Publication Number (112056-0098 2005/0015459), entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ESTABLISHING A PEER CONNECTION USING RELIABLE RDMA PRIMITIVES, by Abhijeet Gole, et al., the contents of which are herein incorporated by reference.

Please replace the FIRST full paragraph of specification page 15 with the following replacement paragraph:

— Fig. 4 is a flow chart of a sequence of steps 400 performed by the cluster connection managers during an initialization process. The sequence begins in step 405 and then proceeds to step 410 where the initiating cluster connection manager establishes an initial communication session with the partner. Establishment of the initial communication session may be accomplished using a variety of techniques; an example of a technique for establishing an initial communication session with a cluster partner that may be advantageously utilized herein is described in co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial Publication Number (112056-0098 2005/0015459), entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ESTABLISHING A PEER CONNECTION USING RELIABLE RDMA PRIMITIVES, by Abhijeet Gole, et al., the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. Once the initial communication session has been established, the cluster connection manager, in step 415, exchanges peer connection information. The peer connection information may include, for example, a version number of the cluster connection manager software, hardware memory region addresses and handles that are used by the cluster storage systems to directly access the memory region using RDMA operations over the cluster interconnect and/or other implementation specific data that may be required by the systems. Each storage system may utilize its partner data to ensure that, for example,

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the partner is executing a version of the connection manager that is compatible with its own connection manager implementation.